

Title of Invention

Transient Voltage Suppressor Structure

Background of the Invention

5 This invention is related to a kind of transient voltage suppressor structure, especially to a transient voltage suppressor structure that prevents the tip on the edge of the signal electrode from contacting with functional material by using an insulation layer.

10 The transient voltage suppressors developed in recent years feature the embedment of a variable impedance material in their structure through which the signal electrode and the ground electrode are connected electrically. The characteristics of these variable impedance material lie in that they can change their impedance in an appropriate range of voltage. When the signal electrode is in the range of normal working voltage, the variable impedance material is in
15 a state of high impedance, so that the voltage and current on the signal electrode in the range of normal working voltage can work appropriately and will not be conducted to the ground electrode. However, when abnormal pulse appears on the signal electrode, the variable impedance materials is shifted to a low impedance state and the energy of the pulse is conducted from the signal
20 electrode to the ground electrode through a transient voltage suppressor and released from the ground electrode. Therefore, the voltage of the signal electrode is limited within an allowable range so that circuits can be protected through the characteristics of the variable impedance material.

25 There are various kinds of transient voltage suppressors that are conventionally made from variable impedance material, among which the voltage suppressor with a single layer structure is generally applied in the

industry. The voltage suppressor with such structure usually has a larger volume and can sustain extreme pulse energy, such as lightning. Another voltage suppressor structure used in the industry is multi-layer structure that has a smaller volume and formed to be a surface adhesion type.

5 Please refer to Fig. 1. The conventional voltage suppressor structure usually has a basic substrate 100 as its matrix on which there is a signal electrode 202a, a variable impedance material 104 and a ground electrode 202b. Part of the variable impedance material 104 covers the basic substrate 100 and the rest part of it covers the signal electrode 202a, while part of the ground electrode 202b
10 covers the basic substrate 100 and the rest part of it covers the variable impedance material 104 to form a stacked structure.

Please refer to Fig. 2. The voltage suppressor structure protected by US Pat. 6,013,358 has a glass or ceramic basic substrate as its matrix. The density of this glass or ceramic plat 200 exceeds 3.5g/cm^3 and has a pair of electrodes 202,
15 including a signal electrode 202a and a ground electrode 202b. A variable impedance material 204 is placed between the signal electrode 202a and the ground electrode 202b. It covers the basic substrate 100 and a part of the signal electrode 202a and ground electrode 202b, so that the transient voltage can be conducted from the signal electrode 202a to the ground electrode 202b and
20 released from the latter.

Please refer to Fig. 3. No matter whether the thin or thick film technology is applied, the thickness on the edge of the signal electrode 102a becomes thin gradually when the signal electrode 102a is formed and an included angle between the tangent of the signal electrode 102a and the horizontal line appears
25 in a form of an acute angle. This acute angle produces point discharge easily when transient voltage appears and the energy concentrates itself for this

discharge. As a result, the capability of the voltage suppressor to sustain transient voltage is restricted and affects the performance of the whole suppressor.

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Summary Description of the Invention

Therefore, the purpose of the said invention is to provide a kind of transient voltage suppressor structure that insulates the edge of the signal electrode from the variable impedance material with an insulator to remove the point discharge of the signal electrode in the transient voltage suppressor structure and increase
10 the capability of the suppressor to sustain transient voltage.

The purpose of the said invention is to provide a kind of transient voltage suppressor structure that insulates the edge of the signal electrode from the variable impedance material with an insulator. In this way, the pulse energy is forced to distribute over the contact face of the signal electrode and the variable
15 impedance material without concentrating onto the small area on the edge of the electrode and causing damage to the material.

A transient voltage suppressor structure is provided to accomplish the purpose of the said invention. An insulation layer is used in this structure to prevent the edge of the signal electrode from contacting with the variable
20 impedance material and, further, remove the effect of the point discharge existing on the edge of the signal electrode. No matter whether the thin or thick film technology is applied, the thickness on the edge of the signal electrode becomes thin gradually when the signal electrode is formed and an included angle between the tangent of the signal electrode and the horizontal line
25 appears in a form of an acute angle. This acute angle produces point discharge easily when transient voltage appears and the energy concentrates itself for this

discharge. As a result, the capability of the voltage suppressor to sustain transient voltage is restricted. The said invention is a structure that insulates the edge of the signal electrode from the variable impedance material with an insulator to increase the capability of the transient voltage suppressor to sustain transient voltage.

To easily understand the purposes, characteristics and advantages of the said invention, a preferred embodiment with figures is described in detail as follows:

Brief Description of Drawings:

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are the sectional schematic drawings of the conventional transient voltage suppressor structures;

Fig. 3 is the local magnification drawing of the contact face between the edge of the signal electrode and the variable impedance material shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 to Fig. 7 are the manufacturing flowcharts of the transit voltage suppressor used in a preferred embodiment of the said invention;

Fig. 8 is the local magnification drawing of the contact face between the edge of the signal electrode and the variable impedance material shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is the schematic drawing of the transient voltage suppressor structure used in another preferred embodiment of the said invention.

Brief Description of Numerals

- 100, 200: Basic substrate
- 102, 202: Electrode

102a, 102b: Ground electrode

102b, 202b: Signal electrode

300: Basic Substrate

302: Ground electrode

5 304: Variable impedance material

306: Insulation layer

308: Signal electrode

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiment

10 The purpose of transient voltage suppressors is mainly to protect electronic equipment from being damaged by pulse. Because the instant energy of pulse is very strong, electronic equipment is generally not able to sustain such huge energy impact and needs the protection of transient voltage suppressors. To accomplish this purpose, the transient voltage suppressor must have the
15 capability to sustain the impact brought by the pulse and its design must meet this requirement.

Please refer to Fig. 4 to Fig. 7. The drawings show the manufacturing flowcharts of the transient voltage suppressor used in a preferred embodiment of the said invention. A basic substrate 300 is provided in Fig. 4 and this basic
20 substrate 300 can be, for example, a glass or a ceramic basic substrate. At least a ground electrode 302 is formed on the basic substrate 300 and this ground electrode 302 is formed, for example, with deposition or sputtering technology and then in the lithography and etching process for patterning.

Further please refer to Fig. 5. a variable impedance material 304 is formed
25 at one end of the ground electrode 302 and this variable impedance material 304 is made, for example, from conductor and semiconductor powder evenly

mixed with a material containing binder. This kind of material have been published in many patent documents, such as US Pat. 3,685,026, 3,685,028, 4,977,357, 5,068,634, 5,260,848, 5,294,374, 5,393,596 and 5,807,509.

Further please refer to Fig. 6. An insulation layer 306 is formed and covers
5 the edge of the variable impedance material 304 and forms a box structure. However, the structure of the insulation layer 306 is not limited to the box shape; it changes along with the profile of the variable impedance material 304. Besides, the insulation layer 306 will expose the central part of the variable
10 impedance material 304 so that it can connect with the consequently formed signal electrode 308 (see Fig. 7) electrically.

Further please refer to both Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. A signal electrode 308 is formed on the variable impedance material 304 to ensure that its edge locates on the insulation layer 306. The whole signal electrode 308 extends, for example, from the contact part with the variable impedance material 304 to the
15 basic substrate 300. Fig. 8 shows clearly that the edge of the signal electrode 308 can be maintained precisely on the insulation layer 306 in the lithography and etching process so that, instead of on the edge of the signal electrode 308, the point discharge occurs on the contact face of the signal electrode 308 and the variable impedance material 304. The point discharge on the edge of the
20 signal electrode 308 can be removed effectively in this way.

Finally, please refer to Fig. 9 presenting the schematic drawing of the transient voltage suppressor structure used in another preferred embodiment of the said invention. The transient voltage suppressor contains mainly a basic substrate 300, a ground electrode 302, a variable impedance material 304, a
25 insulation layer 306 and a signal electrode 308. The ground electrode 302 and the signal electrode 308 are placed on the basic substrate 300, the insulation

layer 306 is placed on the basic substrate 300 between the signal electrode 308 and the ground electrode 302, while the variable impedance material 304 is placed on the top of the insulation layer 306 between the signal electrode 308 and the ground electrode 302 and connects with the signal electrode 308 and
5 the ground electrode 302 electrically.

Please also refer to Fig. 8. The insulation layer 306 covers the edge of the signal electrode 308 and connects with the signal electrode 308 and the ground electrode 302 electrically through the variable impedance material 304. In doing so, the transient voltage suppressor can effectively remove the point
10 discharge occurring on the edge of the signal electrode and prevent the permanent damage to the voltage suppressor.

Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 show that the transient voltage suppressor structure can be integrated in various electronic components. Because the voltage suppressor can sustain higher pulse impact, the electronic components can be protected
15 more effectively and improved not only in their performance, but also in their life. Besides, thanks to the formation of the insulation layer, the variable impedance material of the suppressor itself is also protected. This can not only improve the performance of the voltage suppressor, but also increase its life.

Based on the aforementioned description, the invented transient voltage
20 suppressor structure has at least the following advantages:

1. Because the edge of the signal electrode only contact with the insulation layer, the point discharge does not occur on the edge of the signal electrode when the invented transient voltage suppressor, but on the contact face of the signal electrode and the variable impedance material. The problem of the point
25 discharge on the edge of the signal electrode can be solved in this way.

2. The invented transient voltage suppressor does not suffer permanent

damage caused by the concentration of pulse energy in the edge area of the signal electrode. The pulse energy is controlled so that it flows only through the contact face of the signal electrode and the variable impedance material. In doing so, the invented transient voltage suppressor structure not only reduces
5 the probability of the damage to the variable impedance material caused by the pulse, but also improves the capability of components to sustain pulse energy.

The said invention is presented with a preferred embodiment as described above, but it shall not be deemed the application of the said invention is limited to such embodiment. All the people who are familiar with this technique may
10 undertake any change and modification within the spirit and scope of the said invention. Therefore, the protection scope of the said invention shall be determined based on the definition stated in the following CLAIM.